

15 and R<sup>3</sup> = H or a substituted or unsubstituted, straight or  
branched chain acyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms; or  
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

Please replace claim 3 with the following:

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3. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said  
otoprotective agent is selected from the group consisting of D-  
methionine, L-methionine, a mixture of D-methionine and L-  
methionine, methioninol, hydroxy methionine, ethionine, S-  
adenosyl-L-methionine, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt  
thereof, and a combination thereof.

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